I
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHILDON

FOR THE YEAR

1966

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHILDON

1966

Chairman of the Council: Councillor Mrs. M. Aston, J.P.,

Vice-Chairman: Councillor P. Douthwaite.

Chairman of the Health Committee: Councillor R. Moyle

Chairman of the Housing Committee: Councillor W. Edwards

Councillors:

D. B. S. Angel
W. Bayes
E. Barlow
T. Bennett
G. A. Brown
Mrs. M. Dodds
J. Forster
J. Howe
J. G. Huntington
W. Jackson
K. Newby
W. Nunn
F. Pickering
T. Riley
F. J. Robson
B. Walker, J.P., C.C.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):
J. M. Hegarty, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

Additional Public Health Inspector:
K. Robson

Pupil Public Health Inspector:
G. Sewell

Clerical Assistant:
S. Thompson

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1966

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for the year 1966.

The Vital Statistics, which afford a means of comparison between the Health of a district in the different years and with the rest of the Country, compare very favourably with the previous years and with the Country as a whole with the exception of the death rate.

The Birth Rate is lower than last year. The Still Birth Rate is a little higher but excepting the last two years, is very much lower than all previous years. The Death Rate is higher. There were 174 deaths as against 159 in 1965—the population having decreased by 20. Of these 174 deaths, over half reached the allotted span. Fifty-five died aged between 70 and 80: 31 between 80 and 90: 3 between 90 and 100 and one made the century. A very good record for the area.

The Infant Mortality Rate is more than halved. It is the lowest on record. There were 3 infant deaths as against 7 last year. Of these infant deaths, 1 died aged 1 day from the respiratory distress syndrome due to prematurity, 1 died aged 3 weeks from meningococcal septicaemia and the 3rd died aged 3 months from lobar pneumonia. All three died in hospital.

The number of deaths from Cancer of all parts of the body was 26—3 less than last year, but cancer of the lung or bronchus increased from 10 to 11.

Deaths due to conditions of the heart and vascular system numbered 63 as against 60 last year. Diabetes caused 2 deaths, the same as last year. There were 5 from pneumonia—an increase of 2, but a very big increase from bronchitis—13 as against 3. Deaths from Accidents were 8—2 last year. Two were due to motor vehicles—6 from other causes. There were 2 suicides, double the number of last year.

There was 1 death from Tuberculosis (2 last year). Not one case was notified in 1966. This is a record.

No visit was made by the Mass Miniature X-ray Radiology Unit during the year. Due to small attendances and the poor " pick ups " the unit will be visiting areas less often.

B.C.G. Vaccinations against Tuberculosis are carried out each year in the Senior Schools. The response continues good, as does the co-operation of all head teachers.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases totalled 274—11 fewer than last year. Measles accounted for 248 of these. There were only 2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 4 of Whooping Cough. The figures last year were 21 and 16. There were 7 cases of confirmed Dysentery—5 last year.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continues to be offered in the schools as well as in Clinics and General Practitioner's Surgeries. Immunisation against Diphtheria and Tetanus is similarly offered. The response in the schools is quite good. Triple vaccination against Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus is offered in Clinics and General Practitioner's Surgeries. Smallpox Vaccination is carried out in the 2nd year of life.

Home Helps were supplied to 156 homes during the year—158 last year.

The Meals on Wheels Service continues to supply 24 dinners twice per week. We are indeed indebted to the people who carry out this service so regularly.

The Luncheon Club carries on very successfully in supplying 20-25 people in each of the two premises.

The sessions for the Chiropody Service, run by the Red Cross, had to be increased from weekly—to once weekly and once fortnightly at the beginning of the year. Towards the end of the year this was increased again to twice weekly. 77 sessions were held affording 733 treatments to Old Aged Persons and 10 to Physically Handicapped Persons.

As this will be my last report, I would like to record my appreciation of all helpers in these services.

56 houses were built by the Council with State Assistance and 7 by private persons—making a total of 63 for the year.

The Council have commenced a 4 years phased programme for the Municipalisation of Dustbins—at present 1,200 units are in operation.

Investigations using the Deposit Gauges are taking place with a view to phasing a Smoke Controlled Programme—all new dwellings are completely smokeless.

The Sewage Works continues to turn out an effluent which on the whole meets with the approval of the River Board. As previously reported, consultants have been retained and are now engaged on the preparation of the preliminary schemes together with exploratory works.

It is with regret I report the death of our Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. K. Hill, M.B.E., during the early part of the year. It was a blow to all of us in Shildon to lose such a progressive and forward looking Inspector and Housing Manager. He will be missed for a very long time.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

The Registrar General's figures for the Area at Mid 1966, show the resident population as 13,890, this being a decrease of 20 in comparison with the previous year. The Comparability Factors for Shildon are:—

Births	1.03
Deaths	1.22

Live Births	Male	Female		
Number	115	122	=	237
Rate per 1,000 population				17.57 Standard.

Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live births): 3.12%

Still Births:

	Male	Female		
Number	1	1	=	2

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births: 8.618

Total Live and Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Live	115	122	237
Still Births	1	1	2

Rate per 1,000: 17.72

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year):

2	1	3

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births: 15.45

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births: 16.56

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births; Nil

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births): 10.30

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births): 5.148

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births): 15.31

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of Deaths: Nil

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births: Nil

Death Rate:

Shildon Area ... ... 15.28 per 1,000 population

England and Wales ... 11.7 ,, ,,

Deaths in Shildon Area, as per Returns to the Medical Officer of Health 89

Deaths of Shildon Residents outside the area ... 85

Infantile Mortality Rate:

The number of Deaths of children under the age of one year is 3, representing an Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births of 15.45. Of these 3, none occurred in Shildon.

The Infantile Mortality figure for England and Wales is 18.9 per 1,000 Live Births.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

	Death Rate per 1,000 pop'n	Inf. Mort. Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop'n
Country Average (England & Wales) ...	11.7	19.0	15.4	17.7
Shildon	15.28	15.45	8.618	17.57

Births in excess of Deaths:

1950	56	1958	98
1951	52	1959	74
1952	58	1960	34
1953	64	1961	101
1954	61	1962	104
1955	27	1963	58
1956	71	1964	74
1957	50	1965	102
		1966	63

Population Changes:

1955	14,160
1956	14,050
1957	13,960
1958	13,920
1959	13,910
1960	13,920
1961	14,070
1962	14,130
1963	14,020
1964	13,940
1965	13,910
1966	13,890

Age Groups of Deaths in Shildon:

Under 1 yr.	1–5	5–15	15–25	25–45	45–60	60–70	70–80	Over 80	Total
—	—	—	3	2	14	23	29	18	89

Age Groups of Deaths Outside the Area:

Under 1 yr.	1–5	5–15	15–25	25–45	45–60	60–70	70–80	Over 80	Total
3	1	—	1	3	15	22	27	13	85

Causes of Death, 1966	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	8	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	11	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	3	—
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	18	22
Coronary Disease, Angina	18	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease...	2	3
Other Heart Disease	4	3
Other Circulatory Disease...	7	10
Pneumonia	2	3
Bronchitis	11	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1
Congenital Malformations	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—
All other Accidents...	6	—
Suicide	2	—
Total all Causes ...	104	70

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table of Cases as notified in the Whole District, set out in age groups (Civilians only)

Infectious Disease	Under 1 yr.	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35–45	45–61	61 & over	At all ages
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	3	2	9
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Measles	6	25	29	41	35	112	—	—	1	—	—	—	249
Erysipelas	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS:													
1. MALES:													
(a) Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Non Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. FEMALES:													
(a) Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Non Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	3	—	1	—	7
	6	26	32	41	35	117	2	—	8	1	4	2	274

TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases remained on the Register at the end of the year:

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Males	76	9	85
Females... ...	58	15	73
	134	24	158

The number of known Tuberculosis Cases in the District represents 1.12% of the population, a decrease of .02% over the previous year.

No case of Tuberculosis was notified during the year.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1966

Immunisation against Diphtheria:—

259 No. — Primary Injections.
273 No. — Booster Injections.

Whooping Cough:—

173 No. — Primary Injections.
110 No. — Booster Injections.

Tetanus Injections:—

267 No. — Primary Injections.
221 No. — Booster Injections.

Smallpox Vaccinations:—

84 No. — Primary Vaccination.
8 No. — Re-Vaccination.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination:—

2 No. — Received Primary injections (Salk).
1 No. — Received Booster injection (Salk).
237 No. — Received Primary course (Oral).
117 No. — Received Booster doses (Oral).

All previous figures apply to children under the age of 16 years.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1966—*continued*

B.C.G. Vaccination:—

136 No. — Children were Heaf Tested.
9 No. — Children were Positive.
116 No. — Children were found to be Negative.
114 No. — Children were Vaccinated.

The above B.C.G. figures apply to children attending school in the Shildon Urban District.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Number of cases receiving Home Help at 1.1.1966 ...	127
New cases received during year	29
Total number of cases provided with help during year ...	156
Cases terminated during the year	26
Cases receiving service at 31.12.1966	130

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT

Area (in acres) including Eldon, Old Eldon, Middridge and Brusselton	4,828
No. of inhabited houses in the District of which 63 were constructed during the year, 41 Condemned/Closed and Demolition Orders served under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. The tenants of such houses demolished being re-housed by this Council	4,727
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,069
Rateable Value	£269,124

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Refuse Collection:

Domestic, Shop and Trade Refuse is collected throughout the area by regular weekly collection provided by the Council. The disposal of the refuse is done by controlled tipping at Sunnydale Tip in a most satisfactory manner.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—
continued

Collection of Salvage:

This service is continued along with the normal collection of household refuse in the area:

Description	Tons	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
Scrap Metal	1	12	20	5	6

Drains and Sewerage:

The drains and sewers continue to work in a satisfactory manner.

Rodent Control:

Private businesses and dwelling houses were treated as and where necessary—a charge being made to properties other than dwelling house property, and complete sewer treatments were carried out during the year. A Rodent Operator is employed by the Council for the purpose of carrying out this work.

The public continue to report promptly to the Council Offices any infestation of rats and mice being found on their property.

No. of premises visited	No. of baits laid
343	2,183

The number of visits made during the year on Rat Infested premises during which treatment was carried out being ... 1,407

Water Supply:

The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality for the year.

(a) The total number of bacteriological samples taken by the Durham County Water Board in the Shildon Urban area during 1966 was 45—93.40% Class 1/2.

(b) The water supply to Shildon is not plumbo-solvent; the fluoride content is negligible, hardness is 37/110 parts per million.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—
continued

(c) Chlorination is carried out after all mains repairs and bacteriological tests are made until a satisfactory result is obtained.

(d) There are 4,955 dwelling houses supplied and of these, 159 are metered supplies. There are no houses supplied from street watering pipes.

Summary of Notices and work done in the Public Health Inspectors Department during the Year ended 1966.

1. Houses erected in area:

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	56	—	56
(b) By any other Local Authority ...	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	7	7
	56	7	63

2. Closing and Demolition of Houses.

(a) Formal Action:

	No.
(i) No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	25
(ii) No. of houses Closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	16
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses, demolition of which temporarily postponed	—
(iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation	—

(b) Informal Action:

(i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—
continued

3. Reconditioning and Repair.

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts:—

		No.
(a)	As a result of informal action	61
(b)	By owners as a result of statutory notice ...	2
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

4.

(a) Water, Food and Drugs:

	No.
Samples of water taken for Analysis (water samples are taken by the Durham County Water Board)	—
No isolated samples were taken by this Council as this is the function of the Durham County Council	—
Seizures of unwholesome food (voluntarily surrendered)	293
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis or found to be adulterated	1
Number of cases of food adulteration reported to this Council	1

(b) Precautions against Infectious Diseases:

Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	—
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	—

(c) General:

Number of new houses Erected during the year	63
Number of such houses Occupied during the year	63
Total number of Water Closets in the District ...	5,174
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District ...	59

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—
continued

MILK RETAILERS

There are 5 Retail Purveyors in the District who are supplying either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

Regular samples are taken for testing by the Durham County Council Weights and Measures Department who have reported satisfactory results.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, there are 3 slaughterhouses. The 3 slaughterhouses concerned are each attached to the retail shop for which they are used, and conform to the standards laid down under the provisions of the above Act, and have been duly licensed thereunder. All animals slaughtered have been subject to inspection which has amounted to 100%. A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained in the slaughterhouses throughout the period.

The slaughterhouses have also been inspected by the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and have been found satisfactory.

The 3 slaughterhouses concerned are as follows:—

(1) J. N. Percival ... 25, Church Street, Shildon.

(2) J. Studham ... 49, Church Street, Shildon.

(3) F. S. Hodgson ... 13, St. John's Road, Shildon.

The total number of animals inspected during the year being:—

	Animals Slaughtered
Cattle	198
Sheep	478
Pigs	345

HOUSING

(a) The Council's Pre- and Post-War Housing Programmes are summarised as follows:—

	No. Erected
1919 Act	124
1930-1935 Act:	
North Eastern Housing Association, Newcastle. (Let by this Council)	100

	No. Erected
Post-War Temporary Housing	19
Post-War Permanent Housing	1,003
Post-War Aged Persons Bungalows	215
Post-War Flats	58
(28 available for Old Aged Persons)	
Communal Centre...	1
Warden's Flat	1

(b) Re-Housing:

During the year ended 31st December, 1966, 85 houses were let to the following groups, in accordance with the Council's allocation of houses Scheme:

	No.
Points	53
Individual Unfit Houses...	20
Medical Cases	5
Key Workers	5
Eviction Cases	2
	85

(c) The number of dwellings built by the Council during the year was 56, 17 houses on the Jubilee Field Estate and 37 bungalows, 1 Communal Centre and Warden's Flat at Garbutt Close, Shildon.

The allocation of Council houses is made on the following grounds:

(1) Clearance.

(2) Points.

together with serious medical cases. Special provisions being made to allocate bungalows to old people within the town itself.

Persons requiring housing accommodation, should complete the Housing Application Form, obtainable at the Council Offices, for inclusion on the following year's Housing List.

The number of applicants remaining on the Housing and Bungalow List at 31st December, 1966, were as follows:—

Applications	Type of dwelling required
120	Two bedroom house.
35	Three bedroom house.
135	Bungalows.

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair:

(a) No. of applications for Certificates ... ... —

(b) No. of decisions not to issue Certificates ... —

(c) No. of decisions to issue Certificates—

(i) in respect of some but not all defects ... —

(ii) in respect of all defects ... ... —

(d) No. of undertakings given by Landlords under para. 5 of the 1st Schedule ... ... —

(e) No. of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to para. 5 of the 1st Schedule ... —

(f) No. of Certificates issued ... ... —

Part II—Applications for Cancellation of Certificates:

(g) Applications by Landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates ... ... —

(h) Objections by Tenants to cancellation of Certificates ... ... —

(i)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of Tenant's objections	—
(j)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ...	—

(d) House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 (Standard Grants).

The following is a summary of applications received under the provisions of the above Act, from January—31st December, 1966:—

(i)	No. of applications received	57
(ii)	No. of applications approved	48
(iii)	No. of applications rejected	3
(iv)	No. of applications withdrawn	1
(v)	No. of improvements completed	57

During the year 1965/1966, the Shildon Accident Prevention Society Team were successful in winning the Northumberland and County Durham Cycling Proficiency Championship.

During this period, 77 children were trained in cycling proficiency as follows:

(a)	First year.	45 No.
(b)	Second year.	12 No.
(c)	Third year.	10 No.
(d)	Fourth year.	5 No.
(e)	Fifth year.	3 No.
(f)	Sixth year.	2 No.
		77 No.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Regular visits were paid to the factories in the area and, in general, conditions were found to be good.

This will be my last Annual Report due to my retirement and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my Council for their courtesy and consideration during my years as their Medical Officer.

I would also like to place on record, my thanks to the Staff of the Health Department for their help and hard work during this time. It has been a great pleasure to work for the Shildon Urban District Council.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. HEGARTY,

Medical Officer of Health,
Shildon Urban District Council.

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